

NNJ15517388R: NASA Open Innovation Services (NOIS)

Industry Questions and Answers

Question 24: Since our customers will be emailing their PPQ responses, we are concerned that their emails could end up in spam folders. Would we be able to send you a list of our customer's email addresses so that their emails route correctly?

Answer 24: While you are welcome to provide an e-mail listing to the NOIS Contracting Officer, offerors can be assured that JSC Procurement personnel regularly check spam folders to ensure all data is delivered.

Question 25: Section 5.12.2(c) discusses the submission of proposal on CD. Are hard copies of proposal required? If so, how many?

Answer 25: Hard copies are NOT required. As stipulated in the RFP, Section. 5.12.2, volumes are to be delivered on CD-ROM only.

Question 26:

FAR 52.222-41

NASA has indicated in Section 3, page 4, that the Service Contract Act applies to this contract. It is felt that the SCA should not apply to this solicitation since several clauses of the SCA defeat the purpose of crowdsourcing. Can NASA remove the inclusion of 52.222-41?

Answer 26: This clause shall be removed from the RFP. A modification to section 3, 52.212-5, Contract Terms and Conditions Required to Implement Statutes or Executive Orders-Commercial Terms, will be completed to account for correction of this RFP reference.

Question 27: I'm finding a couple requirements of your solicitation difficult to understand. First, what is expected to be provided in the Model Contract for Volume 5? There are instructions in Section 5.13.5 that seem to conflict with Table 5-2. Our atty has put together a draft that I think is insufficient, but it's difficult to say why. Second, you originally suggested a format for the pricing proposal, L3, but later removed that from Table 5-2 without suggesting any other format. What are the specific requirements for this Volume?

Answer 27: The table on clause 5.12.2, Proposal Arrangement, Page Limitations, Copies, and Due Dates, will be revised to include, Volume IV – Other Proposal Information. With this revision, Model Contract will be moved to Volume V within Table 5-2. A modification to clause 5.12.2, Proposal Arrangement, Page Limitations, Copies, and Due Dates, will be completed to account for correction of this RFP reference. Please refer to prior Q&A posted on the NOIS website (Question 13) for further information. <http://procurement.jsc.nasa.gov/nois/>

Question 28: Is it correct, the proposal is to be delivered on 2 x CD-ROM and that no hard or printed copies are required?

Answer 28: Correct

Question 29: Section 5.12.2 (h) asks for a cross reference list that tracks the page and paragraph numbers of the offeror's proposal to the page and paragraph numbers of the RFP. Must all proposal paragraphs be numbered and cross referenced or can that be done at the volume and section level?

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Answer 29: This can be done at the volume and section level.

Question 30: For Volume IV as defined in 5.13.4, if no subcontractors have been used in the past or will be used for the completion of responsibilities outlined in this contract is it necessary to include a Volume IV or can it be omitted entirely? If it must be included what information should it contain, besides any vendor responsibility information as requested in section (c) based on FAR 9.104?

Answer 30: If a subcontracting arrangement is not proposed, offerors shall submit a Volume IV but state not applicable for subcontracting arrangement. A modification to clause 5.13.4, Other Proposal Information – Volume IV, will be completed to account for correction of this RFP reference.

Question 31: By “the model contract in its entirety” are you asking offerors to submit the entirety of the RFP (Word Documents for Sections 1-7) filled out? If so should they be included in paper format or pasted into the end of the word document for the rest of the RFP? If not please clarify to what the “Model Contract” refers.

Answer 31: Model contract refers to Word document sections 1-7 and it is the Government’s expectation that all offeror fill-ins be completed and submitted via CD-ROM per the RFP requirements.

Question 32: For the completed and signed copies of SF 1449 should those be included as paper copies or scanned as PDFs and included in the CD-ROM?

Answer 32: Offerors shall sign and submit two original SF 1449s with the model contract with an original signature on each copy and corresponding date. The signed copies shall be included in the package with the CD ROM. Include a scanned PDF copy of the SF 1449 form along with proposal submittal in the CD ROM. A modification to clause 5.13.5, Model Contract – Volume V, will be completed to account for correction of this RFP reference.

Question 33: It appears that section 1.06 is already filled in, are any alterations necessary?

Answer 33: No.

Questions 34: It appears that section 2.03 is already filled in, are any alterations necessary?

Answer 34: No.

Question 35: For section 2.05 in section 5.13.5 of the RFP it requires that offerors complete the representation of Previous Contracts and Compliance Reports. I do not see a space for that. If The Offeror has never before held a government contract is any action necessary?

Answer 35: Please submit 2.05 with a N/A if no previous contracts to report.

Question 36: For section 7.01 if the offeror profile is up to date in SAM is any additional action required.

Answer 36: No—offerors need only ensure their Representations and Certifications, are up to date in SAM.

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Question 37: For SF 1449 what should be in block 12 “Discount Terms”?

Answer 37: This should be filled in with any discount terms an individual offeror may be offering the Government.

Question 38: For SF 1449 what is the code referred to in block 17a? Would that be a DUNS number?

Answer 38: This can be a DUNS number or any other code the offeror uses as a unique identifier for their company.

Question 39: Please confirm that beyond blocks 12, 17, and 30 SF 1449 should be left blank.

Answer 39: Block 12 should contain any discount terms an offeror may be offering, block 17 should contain the offerors address and contact information, and block 30 should contain a signature from an offeror’s representative authorized to enter into contractual agreements for the company.

Question 40: Please describe “integration of software-based solutions into existing Government infrastructure” referenced on page 4-3 of Section 4 under section 4.02 Scope of Work. Does this relate to challenge management software provided by the vendor or software solutions that are chosen as challenge winners? If the latter, please provide examples.

Answer 40: This refers to software solutions that are chosen as challenge winners and require deployment into existing Government IT infrastructure. An example might be if there is a mobile application developed to communicate with a server. Services would include working with the government to ensure proper installation of server software and any integration or testing required. Note that this may not fit all vendor models since it is primarily intended for software solutions. Requirements will be specified in each unique task order where it applies.

Question 41: Please confirm whether the offeror can submit to NASA the team’s biographies or resumes as an appendix file.

Answer 41: No requirement exists for that information. The page limitations and proposal requirements are clearly stipulated and any appendices need to adhere to the RFP page limitations, as stated in section 5.12.2, Proposal Arrangement, Page Limitations, Copies, and Due Dates, of the RFP.

Question 42: 5.13.3 Price Factor - Volume III: should the offeror’s price volume be inclusive of the full Scope of Work described in the SOW (pages 4-2 and 4-3)? The instructions for Preparation of the Price Proposal on pages 5-10 and 5-11 appear to include significantly fewer services compared with the Scope of Work on pages 4-2 and 4-3.

Answer 42: As stated in the RFP, offerors are to provide pricing for evaluation purposes only, as specified in section 5.13.3, Price Factor – Volume III of the RFP. There is no requirement to provide pricing for the full scope of the work.

Question 43: 5.13.3 Price Factor - Volume III: For the “one day training session for 20 participants with no travel required”, can you please clarify if travel expenses are for the NASA participants, the offeror’s staff, or both?

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Answer 43: Travel expenses (for anyone) should NOT be included in the NTE price of this item.

Question 44: 5.13.3 Price Factor - Volume III: Does NASA have a preferred template or format for a price buildup (e.g., labor, expenses, by deliverable, by phase of work)?

Answer 44: No.

Question 45: When including Section 2.02(b) (2)(i) under 2.02 52.203-2 Certificate of Independent Price Determination in the model contract, could you please clarify if offerors should simply replace [OFI] with our offeror information?

Answer 45: Yes—OFI stands for offeror fill in and offeror information should be inserted in all OFI areas of the RFP.

Question 46: Will vendors who are not awarded the IDIQ have the opportunity to bid for future NASA Open Innovation Services projects during the period of time covered by the IDIQ?

Answer 46: No, unless a new procurement is initiated.

Question 47: Per Amendment 2, the proposal due date has been changed to January 20 from January 16. Are past performance questionnaires also now due on January 20?

Answer 47: Yes

Question 48: What are the specific deliverables for this contract?

Answer 48: Please refer to section 4.05, Reporting and Metrics, of the RFP.

Question 49: What is the specific scope of work for this contract?

Answer 49: See Attachment 4.1 of Section 4. (http://prod.nais.nasa.gov/eps/eps_data/163296-SOL-001-006.docx)

Question 50: Are there any award evaluation criteria aside from sections 5.12.1-5.13.5 and 6.01-6.01.5?

Answer 50: No.

Question 51: How is each of the award evaluation criteria weighted?

Answer 51: See section 6 for Evaluation Factors for Award.

Question 52: What is the skillset requested of successful bidders?

Answer 52: All successful offerors are required to meet the requirements as stipulated in Section 4.0 of the RFP.

Question 53: Is there a requirement for minimum staff?

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Answer 53: There is no minimum staff level required by the RFP. However, there must be an existing community of solvers that has a demonstrated capacity to perform crowd-based challenges as specified in Section 4 (Attachment 4.1, NOIS Statement of Work).

Question 54: What types of professionals and/or staff mix are required?

Answer 54: All requirements are specified in the RFP.

Question 55: Are teaming arrangements permitted?

Answer 55: Yes, teaming arrangements are permitted at the discretion of the offeror.

Question 56: Will experience in developing similar deliverables for specific industries and technologies be weighted more heavily than other types of past performance?

Answer 56: See section 6 for Evaluation Factors for Award

Question 57: How will the deliverables be evaluated?

Answer 57: Deliverables will be evaluated against the scope and criteria of the given task order.

Question 58: How will NASA use the deliverables?

Answer 58: Depends on the specific task order and deliverable (keep in mind that this contract may also be used by other federal agencies).

Question 59: What are NASA's goals for this contract?

Answer 59: As stated in the RFP: "The Federal Government is seeking new and improved ways of solving problems and driving innovation through the use of existing and/or emerging open innovation tools and challenge platforms." See section 4.02 for specific Scope of Work.

Question 60: Is a goal of the CoECI increasing public recognition for NASA programs?

Answer 60: Please see the [CoECI website](http://www.nasa.gov/offices/COECI/) for an overview of its purpose and functions. - <http://www.nasa.gov/offices/COECI/> and specifically <http://www.nasa.gov/offices/COECI/about/overview.html>.

Question 61: Does the CoECI have a mission statement?

Answer 61: See the CoECI web site for more information - <http://www.nasa.gov/offices/COECI/> and specifically <http://www.nasa.gov/offices/COECI/about/overview.html>.

Question 62: Will the contractor have an opportunity to assist in market research?

Answer 62: No—that is not a requirement of this RFP.

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Question 63: Will the contractor have an opportunity to assist with research as to licensing partners?

Answer 63: No—that is outside the scope of this RFP.

Question 64: Is there an incumbent on this contract? If so, who is the incumbent?

Answer 64: NASA Headquarters' currently has an existing contract with Harvard (NNH10CD71C) who subcontracts with Appirio-Topcoder and the Johnson Space Center in Houston has a contract with InnoCentive, Inc. (NNJ12HB18C).

Question 65: Please identify, if possible, previously posted challenges or other deliverables similar to those of the current RFP.

Answer 65: Please refer to the NOIS procurement site under the Technical Library or visit Challenge.gov at: <https://www.challenge.gov/list/?ag=National%20Aeronautics%20and%20Space%20Administration> (reference only those listed as CoECI & NTL challenges)

Question 66: We would like clarification on the following areas of the model contract offerors are required to complete:

Section 1. Are we required to complete blocks 23 and 24 as the SF 1449 states?

Answer 66: No, offerors are only required to fill in block 26.

Question 67: Section 1. 1.06(a). We are unclear as to the fill-in required here, assuming we are referencing Section 1, 1.06 (on page 1-2). Would you please clarify what is needed?

Answer 67: 1.06a is not a fill-in. It shows a running tally of the value of task orders authorized under the contract. The value of \$3500 that is already there represents the minimum order required to be provided by the Government.

Question 68: Section 2. We are unclear on the requirement to complete 2.02 (b), 2.03 (b), 2.05 and 2.06. Would you please clarify what is needed? The information in the Section 2 document does not seem to correspond to these instructions.

Answer 68: 2.02b is an offeror fill in identifying the individual from the offeror's company that signed the 1449, 2.03b requires nothing from the offeror at this time, and nothing is required in regards to 2.05 and 2.06.